

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
DOD
CINCLANT
COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231290

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJ: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: NAC CONSIDERATION

REF: USNATO 5540

1. WE AGREE WITH REFTTEL THAT, IF LUNS AND NAC ARE TO BE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ICELAND BASE NEGOTIATIONS, THIS SHOULD BE DONE ONLY IN COORDINATION WITH ICELANDIC DELEGATION. WE WOULD NOT FAVOR UNILATERAL OR DIVERGENT STATEMENTS. YOU ARE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING TEXT WITH ICELANDIC DELEGATION WITH VIEW TO MAKING JOINT OR PARALLEL STATEMENTS. IN ORDER TO ENHANCE CONFIDENTIALITY OF NAC CONSIDERATION, WE BELIEVE NAC SHOULD MEET IN RESTRICTED SESSION ON THIS SUBJECT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: UNDER SECRETARY PORTER HAS HELD THREE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND REYKJAVIK WITH ICELAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER, EINAR AGUSTSSON, ON THE STATUS OF THE ICELAND

DEFENSE FORCE. THREE OPTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED:

- A. THE PRESENT SITUATION WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED;
- B. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE IDF WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ACTION;
- C. TO WHAT EXTENT COULD THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND BE ENSURED WITHOUT THE DEFENSE FORCE BEING STATIONED IN ICELAND, INTER ALIA BY STATIONING FORCES ELSEWHERE AND HAVING VARIOUS FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY ICELANDIC NATIONALS.

3. THE US HAS ACCEDED TO THE ICELANDIC VIEW THAT THE SITUATION COULD NOT REMAIN UNCHANGED. ICELAND HAS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT, IN THE VIEW OF THE US AND OF NATO'S MILITARY COMMITTEE, CONTINUED USE OF THE FACILITIES IN ICELAND WOULD BE A MATTER OF UTMOST CONCERN. IT IS, THEREFORE, THE POSITION OF THE US AND ICELAND TO EXPLORE THE THIRD OPTION AND TO STUDY WAYS IN WHICH CHANGES CAN BE MADE IN THE IDF WITHOUT IMPAIRING THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND OR NATO INTERESTS. AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS THUS FAR, THE US HAS MADE CERTAIN PROPOSALS TO ICELAND WHICH ARE, IN LARGE MEASURE, ADDRESSED TO TWO POINTS: 1) THE REDUCTION OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL; AND 2) THE EMPLOYMENT OF ICELANDIC NATIONALS OR US CIVILIANS TO REPLACE THEM. THE US HAS EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL MILITARY CORE OF THE IDF WHICH CANNOT BE TURNED OVER TO CIVILIANS AND WHICH CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM ICELAND WITHOUT IMPAIRING THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND AS WELL AS NATO SECURITY INTERESTS. THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING STUDIED BY THE ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES. END TEXT.

4. NAC ROLE: AT THIS STAGE, THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT NAC CAN USEFULLY PLAY ANY ROLE. US-ICELANDIC CONTACTS HAVE BEEN CORDIAL AND USEFUL. COMMUNICATIONS ARE GOOD. ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS IS PLANNED FOR MID-DECEMBER. WE DO NOT BELIEVE NAC PRESSURE ON ICELAND WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE; IN FACT, IT COULD WELL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY IF GOI OR ANY SEGMENT OF ITS
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COALITION PARTIES CHOSE TO BELIEVE THAT US HAD INSTIGATED NAC CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER

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